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PHALAENOPSIS - THE MOTH ORCHID

#117

Phalaenopsis are one of the showiest and most satisfactory of the spray types - splendid for exhibition purposes and growing daily in popularity as a corsage item, especially for bridal work.

The species originate in the hot sections of the East, from New Guinea to Burma and are found in abundance in the Philippines. They are epiphytes, monopodial in growth, with a short, heavy stem four to ten inches high. The large, broad, leathery leaves alternate along the stem and form a most attractive plant.

The varieties which we list are all hybrids with larger, better formed flowers of heavier substance than in the species. The flowers are arranged along arching spikes, usually in two rows side by side, closely set and in some cases slightly overlap one another. A flower spike will bear from four to thirty blossoms and many of the new hybrids have a tendency to flower more than once in a season. Flowers vary in size from three inches to as much as five inches across.

CULTURE: Phalaenopsis will do best at a minimum night winter temperature of 65° to 70°, although many growers report successful lower night temperatures. All of our new hybrids are in continuous growth so checking or resting SHOULD NOT be practiced. They like a humidity of around 60% to 70% and require a slightly heavier shade than cattleyas through the hot, bright summer season. During the winter months we grow them under a 25% shade (Lumite Horticultural Shade Cloth of a green or grey 18 x 14 mesh). As the season progresses, we increase the shade in our section about the first of June by adding another covering of Lumite Orchid Cloth and this will stay on until Fall. This same shading procedure can be followed by using paint shading material, etc. When watering, remember Phalaenopsis resent drying out if potted in Osmunda and we try to maintain an even, light moisture content similar to Cypripedium conditions. Overhead syringing is beneficial through Spring, Summer and Fall. Pot only in the best grade of Osmunda. We find azalea pots excellent for this purpose. From the community pot on we seldom remove any Osmunda in shifting to larger sizes and pot for a two year period. As in other orchids they like ventilation and resent a close, stuffy atmosphere.

PROPAGATION: Phalaenopsis are raised from seed and will flower within a maximum time of 36 months. It is also possible to propagate additional stock from flower stem cuttings placed on agar, using a technique similar to seed culture. However, this is impractical unless one wishes to increase the stock of an exceptionally fine variety. Occasionally they will also start little plantlets at the flower stem nodes. When an injury occurs to the crown of the plant, new plant growths will often start from the remainder of the stem.

FLOWER CUTTING: As previously stated, our new hybrids have continuous flowering tendencies. When cutting flower spikes, always leave two or three stem nodes if the plant is in a good, healthy condition. These stem nodes will break into lateral or side flower stems and with a few plants it is possible to have some Phalaenopsis flowers all through the year. When new flower spikes appear at the base of the plant and are well in progress, cut off the old flowering stem close to the base of the plant; this will allow all of the strength to go into the development of the new flower spike.

GRAVEL CULTURE: All of the Phalaenopsis do very well potted in gravel and we recommend Wilson's Orchid Fertilizer developed by Dr. O. W. Davidson of Rutgers University, which should be used as directed for either Osmunda or gravel culture. A number of growers report their plants doing well in a $\frac{1}{4}$ " or $\frac{1}{2}$ " granite gravel.

This listing cancels all previous Phalaenopsis offerings.

#946. DORIS

(Doris x Doris) A Doris made from two outstanding varieties of Doris. Flowers of fine form and substance, pure white, with very free flowering qualities. Available in 4" sizes and larger.

#1066. SUMMIT QUEEN

(Summit Snow var. Luis J. Fernandez x Doris)
Another Phalaenopsis made with carefully selected, fine, white varieties. From those previously flowered, we look forward to uniformly fine results. Strong growers with continuous flowering tendencies. Many should flower with overlapping sepals and petals. Available in 1 3/4", 2 1/2", 3" and 3 1/2" sizes.

#1067. SUMMIT QUEEN

(Doris x Summit Snow var. Luis J. Fernandez)
The reverse cross of #1066. A fine, commercial cut flower possibility. Available in 1 3/4", 2 1/2", 3" and 3 1/2" sizes.

#1070. SUMMIT DELIGHT

(Confirmation x Elizabethae)
Very fine varieties promise excellent results. Substance and keeping qualities all that can be desired. Available in 1 3/4", 2 1/2" and 3".

#1094. SUMMIT PURITY

(Summit Snow x Innocence)
A white with all the desirable features of a good Phalaenopsis. Color, size, shape, substance, continuous flowering tendencies and strength of growth are its features. Available in 1 3/4", 2 1/2" and 3" sizes.

#1103. SUMMIT SUPREME

(Summit Snow var. Delight) x (Psyche x Elizabethae) x Doris
We expect very excellent results based on the fine Summit Snow parentage. Available in 1 3/4" and 2" sizes.

#1114. SUMMIT BEAUTY

(Innocence x Doris)
Strong growers with beautifully shaped white flowers with a good percentage of overlapping sepals and petals. A tendency of several flowerings a season and readily grows side flowering spikes from the old flower stem when this is not cut back too far. Available in 2 1/2", 3", 3 1/2", 4" and larger sizes.

#1115. SUMMIT QUEEN

(Summit Snow x Doris)
A cross from which we have flowered some exceptionally fine whites with good substance; overlapping sepals and petals of from 4" to 5" across. Continuous flowering tendencies with excellent commercial cut flower possibilities. Available in 2 1/2", 3", 3 1/2", 4" and larger.

1 3/4" ----- \$2.00
2" ----- 4.00
2 1/2" ----- 6.00
3" ----- 7.50

3 1/2" ----- \$10.00 - 12.50
4" ----- 15.00 - 25.00
Larger, heavier plants -
25.00 - 40.00

All sizes from 3" up are of flowering size. Plants are shipped F.O.B. Summit, N. J., and terms are cash with order or net 30 days when credit is established.